

WI-281
Alexander F. Turner House
Nanticoke
Private

c. 1890

Standing within a few yards of the Nanticoke River, the Alexander F. Turner house is a large two-and-a-half story, double-pile dwelling erected at the end of the nineteenth century. The five-bay frame house follows a center hall plan and is served by internal brick chimneys that rise between pairs of rooms on each side of the hall. Cross gables are centered on the front and rear roof slopes, and wooden finials rise from each peak.

Alexander F. Turner, a Nanticoke merchant, financed construction of this house around 1890, and the property remained in his hands until his death around 1905. Following his death the house and acreage fell to Wilbur F. Turner, Carrie W. Turner, and Sadie R. Turner, and Wilbur and Sadie conveyed their interest in the property to Carrie in 1907. The house and lot remained under Turner and related Messick family control until the early 1960s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

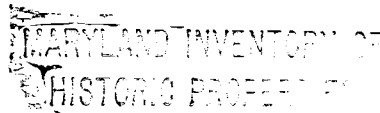
RESOURCE NAME: Alexander F. Turner House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-281

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form



Survey No. WI-281

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexander F. Turner House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2804 Bank Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke

☐ vicinity of

congressional district First

state Maryland

county

Wicomico

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☒ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Laffey

street & number 2804 Bank Street

telephone no.:

city, town Nanticoke

state and zip code MD 21840

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 498

liber 1091

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse

folio 142

city, town Salisbury

state Maryland 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-281

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Alexander F. Turner house stands at 2804 Bank Road facing the Nanticoke River in the village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame dwelling faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1890, the two-and-a-half story, center hall/double-pile, cross-gabled frame dwelling rests on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the northeast corner is a modern single story addition that incorporates a garage.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical elevation with the first floor sheltered by an enclosed shed roof porch. A pair of double replacement doors pierces the center bay. Five single-pane sash windows light the second floor, and a pointed arch window pierces the center cross gable. Fixed atop the peak of the gable is a pointed wood finial. Small Victorian brackets are attached to the principal corners of the roof under the eave. A pair of large decorative brick chimney stacks rise through the center of the roof on each side of the center hall. The chimneys are finished with corbelled caps.

The north and south gable ends are defined by pairs of single-pane sash windows that illuminate the first, second, and third floors.

The east (rear) wall is partially covered by the modern single-story addition. The rear wall of the house is pierced by two centrally positioned doors that are sheltered by a turned post porch highlighted by a centered cross gable sheathed with fishscale shingles. The second floor is marked by a series of single-pane sash windows, and a pointed arch window pierces the cross gable. A wood finial rises from the peak of the roof.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-281

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Standing within a few yards of the Nanticoke River, the Alexander F. Turner house is a large two-and-a-half story, double-pile dwelling erected at the end of the nineteenth century. The five-bay frame house follows a center hall plan and is served by internal brick chimneys that rise between pairs of rooms on each side of the hall. Cross gables are centered on the front and rear roof slopes, and wooden finials rise from each peak.

Alexander F. Turner, a Nanticoke merchant, financed construction of this house around 1890, and the property remained in his hands until his death around 1905. Following his death the house and acreage fell to Wilbur F. Turner, Carrie W. Turner, and Sadie R. Turner, and Wilbur and Sadie conveyed their interest in the property to Carrie in 1907.(1) The house and lot remained under Turner and related Messick family control until the early 1960s.(2)

The house deserves listing in *Category C* due to its architectural and historical significance.

1 Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 54/378, 6/19/1907, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 527/273, Wicomico County Courthouse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-281

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 6/16/96

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
(410) 576-1000

Map 63, Parcel 498

to

to

Gilbert C. Smythe
Phoebe R. Smythe

WI-281
Alexander F. Turner House
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 720/473

Hilma N. Smith

to

10/27/1970

Richard W. Opfer

Jean C. Opfer

Being a part of the same land conveyed unto Alan
J. Smith and Hilma N. Smith....the said Alan J.
Smith having since departed this life

JWTS 527/273

Cornelius G. Messick

Jean Griffin Messick

to

10/30/1961

Alan J. Smith

Hilma N. Smith, City of Washington, D. C.

Two acres owned by Alexander F. Turner at the
time of his death, intestate, the deed for which is
recorded among the land records of Somerset
County, upon the death of Alexander F. Turner,
the property descended unto Wilbur F. Turner,
Carrie W. Turner and Sadie R. Turner, the interest
of said Wilbur F. Turner having been conveyed
unto the said Carrie W. Turner by deed, 6/19/1907
EAT 54/378, the said land being devised by
Carrie Turner Zimmerman unto her husband
George Zimmerman (now deceased) for life by her
Last Will and Testament dated 7/29/1941,
JAH 5/304, with the remainder unto Amy Turner
Messick and which was devised unto Cornelius G.
Messick by the Last Will and Testament of the
said Amy Turner Messick, dated 2/19/1954,
JAH 5/545

WI-281
Alexander F. Turner House
Chain of title continued

Page 3

EAT 54/378

Wilbur F. Turner
Jennie Turner
Sadie R. Turner

to

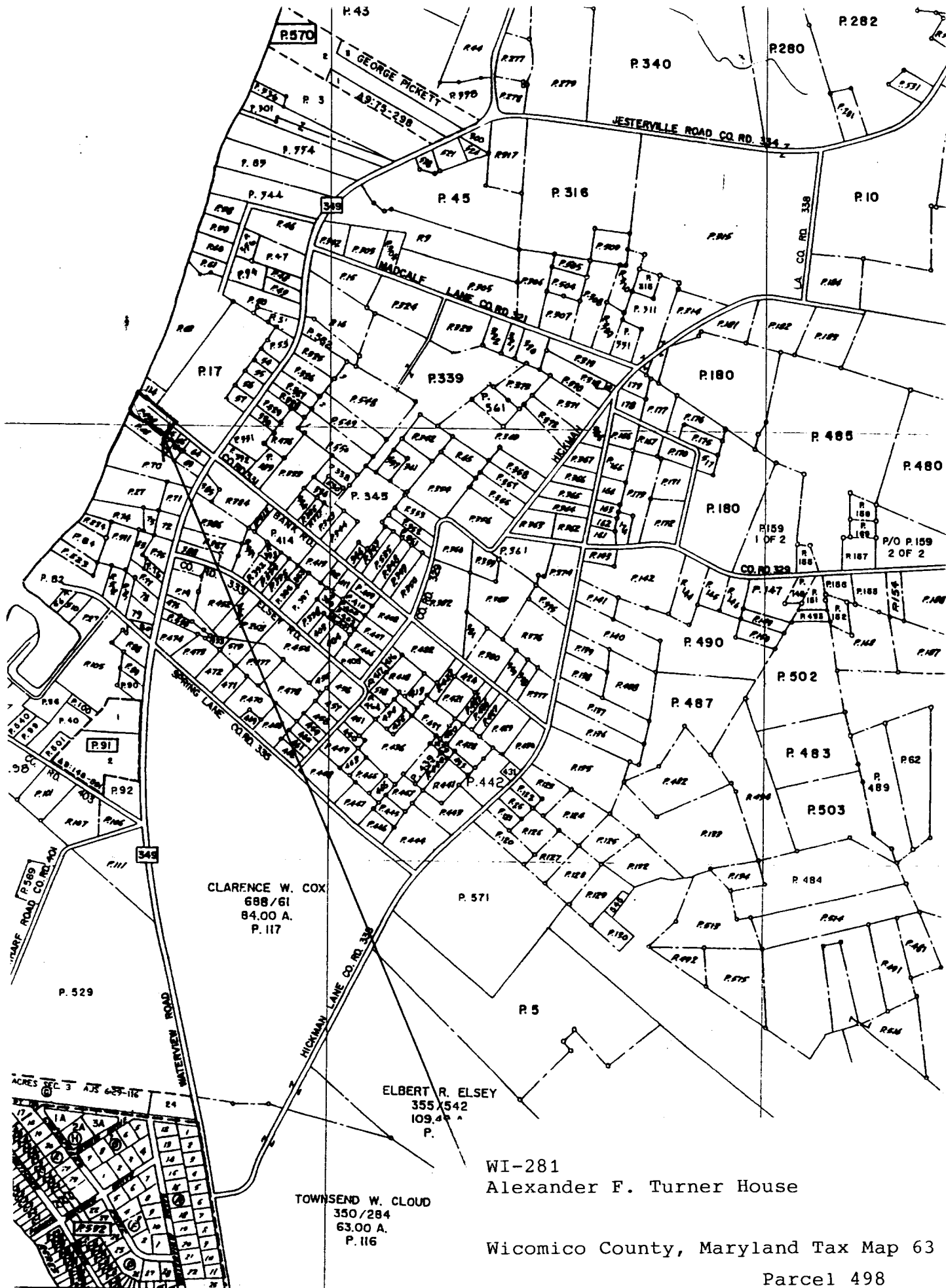
6/19/1907

Carrie W. Turner

Whereas Alexander F. Turner departed this life
intestate about 1905 and his real estate was
divided

property description mentions store house of
Alexander F. Turner and Edward S. S. Turner

8 acres Plat No. 1, Alexander F. Turner
Homeplace, surveyed 2/17/1894

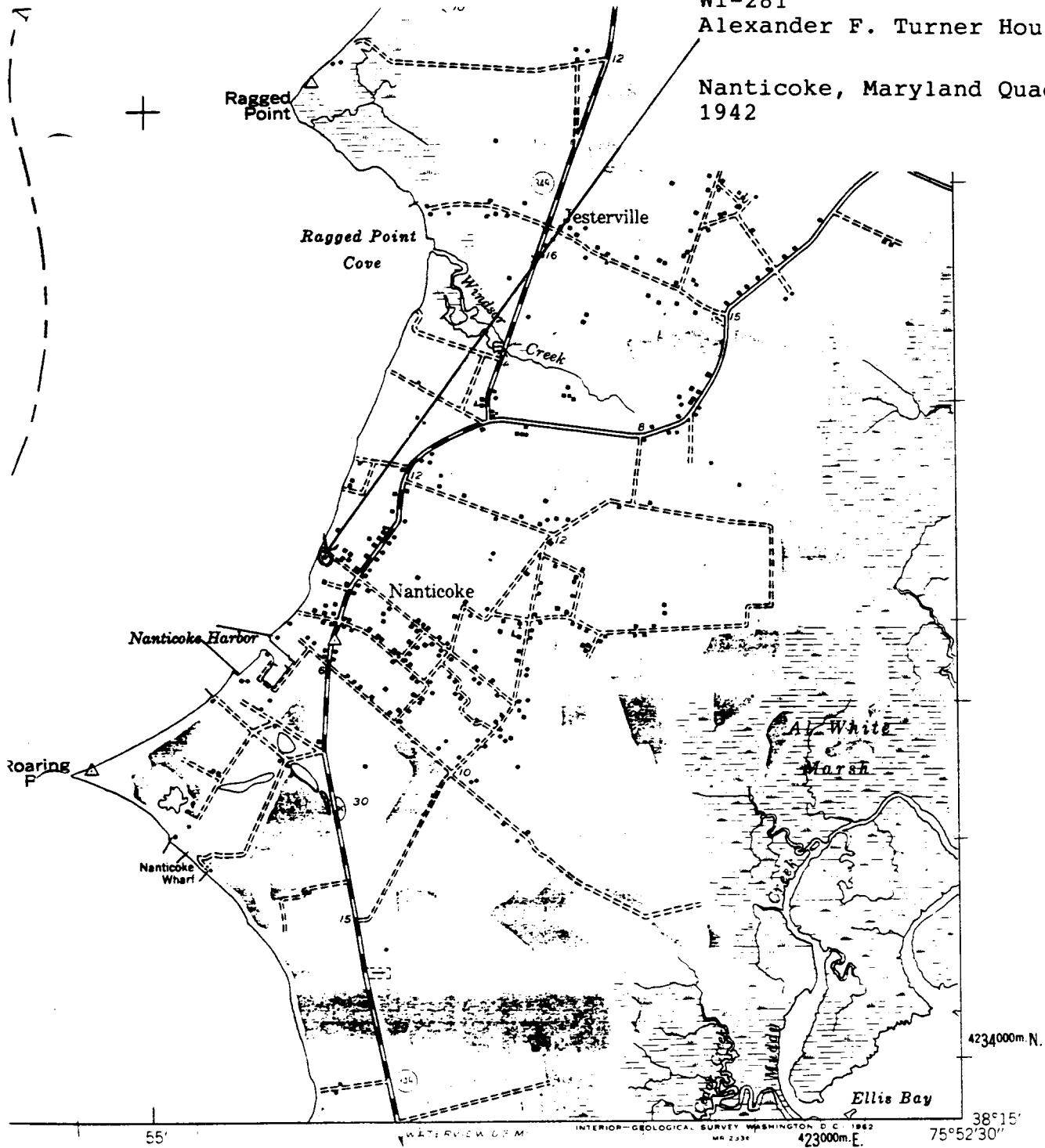


WI-281
Alexander F. Turner House

Wicomico County, Maryland Tax Map 63
Parcel 498

WI-281
Alexander F. Turner House

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



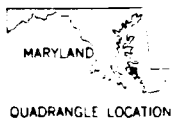
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty

Light-duty

Unimproved dirt

State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NANTICOKE, MD.

SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942



N1-291

Am. Indian ...

Nam ...

...

3/96 ...

...





